

ble to give me any information or advice, such as I need in my present circumstances, by the last of next month, i.e. Aug., please direct your letter to Newburgh, N.Y. as I am expecting to volunteer to remove there early in Sept. next. I shall hope, however, to hear from you before leaving this place, as it would be very trying to be thrown upon my own resources, for months, not knowing either where

Childmark Wm. Paid.
July 12

Rev. A. A. Phelps.

New York, N.Y.

I find of nothing
for the interest of
this
L. J.

enclosed you will find
good as to hand over to L. Tappan Esq.
to take a little in the benevolent effort
of the Union Missionary Society.
I should be glad to send more, but am
too poor at present. Yours &c. L. J.

to go or what to do. It is painful to trouble you with my affairs amidst the pressing labors of your station, but you will pardon me, I trust, in view of the fact that it is needful, & will be an act of kindness to one who if not deceived - is a friend of Christ. My regards to Mrs. Phelps, & Lewis Tappan Esq.

Yours in the best of bonds.
L. A. Spofford.

But in the present state of things I suppose it would be difficult, if not utterly impossible, for me, as a minister of Christ, so to live & so to preach as to maintain a conscience void of offence toward God & toward men, & still be useful there.

On this account I have been almost determined to offer myself again as a missionary to Jerusalem; not, however, to the London Society, but to our Union M. S., - being in a situation now to labor for a less salary than I must have had five or six years ago.

My children will now be able, with the blessing of God, to sustain themselves, & do not expect any more help from ^{me}, except so far as my counsel & my prayers are concerned.

My wife is habitually feeble, & must be sustained chiefly by the evils of my own labors.

She will remove to Newburgh, N. Y., as is now expected, on leaving this place, with a view to spending some months with my eldest daughter who has recently married & settled there.

Of course I must go where I can find a field of labor best adapted to my present circumstances.

Although I have seen the frosts of fifty-five winters, & have the dishonor of a grey head, - as it proves to be so at this day, & especially when seen on a minister, - still I have as fair a prospect of living & being able to labor in the vineyard of Christ to advantage for ten or fifteen years to come, in case of being favorably located as to climate, - as I have ever enjoyed since entering the ministry almost thirty years ago.

And now, dear brother, will you let your kind heart touch your head & your hands a little in my behalf, & give me as soon as convenient an expression of your views on the course I had better pursue under the circumstances above presented? Perhaps Lewis Teague Esq. can help you a little in this deed of "brotherly kindness", as I have had 'a proof of his love' already, & doubt not his disposition to give me another. Should you be una-

Such being my circumstances it is my duty, no doubt either to suspend for a time my public labors, or seek a location where the climate will be more favorable to my complaint. As my difficulty is now of so long standing I should prefer the former course till next spring perhaps, if I could find some useful employment by which I could do a little more than sustain myself, i. e. pay my board & keep my clothing good. At all events, I should be unwilling to be idle, even if some kind friend should offer to support me. Indeed, I should regard it as a sin to sit down at my ease for the space of six months when my health is uniformly good, with the exception before named. But what can I find to do that is adapted to my genius, as well ^{as} to my taste? Could I find employment through the fall & winter approaching either in the A. F. Society's house at New York, or the A. B. Society's house? I could examine & correct proof sheets to some advantage, & should be very critical, although not paid in the business. Or, I could box up books to good advantage, to send away into different parts of the country. In short, I could turn my hand to almost any kind of indoor business that is useful, in case it should not require great bodily strength. It will be understood, however, that any such engagement must be temporary, as I should feel it my bounden duty "to preach the gospel to the poor," i. e. those who are literally poor in this world, - in case of finding essential relief from my old complaint. And even as it is I would venture off to the far south in our land & labor among the colored population, were it not for slavery, - hoping that so great a change as to climate would be favorable to my complaint, & that I should be able to labor for years among those who need so greatly to be instructed in the way of salvation through Him who died for them.

Rev. L. A. Stoddard

Chilmark, July 12, 1845

Chilmark, Ms. July 12, 1845.

Rev. Mr. Phelps,

Dear Brother,

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Needing information, as well as some advice, on one or two subjects both of personal & public concern, I take the liberty to write you at this time, being persuaded that your heart will incline you to give me a frank reply. It was my intention to have seen you at Boston early in May, but on arriving there I learned that you had just left for your present location. You know already, if it has not been forgotten, that I of-
ficed myself, by a letter of recommendation from Dr. H. Humphrey some six years ago, to the London M. S. as a missionary to Jamaica. Whether this letter ever reached London I know not, as a reply in any form has never been received. The object of course, was given up on my part, as I could not undertake the mission proposed at my own expense. Not long after the above proposition I came to this little island, & have labored persistently in word & doctrine to the present time; & not without some success, although it is a hard field to cultivate. My work, however, as to this part of the moral vineyard, is nearly done, having requested a dismission, & a council being already appointed to dissolve the pastoral relation. The grand reason for leaving my present charge is the peculiar state of my health, having been afflicted very much the two past winters with hoarseness, occasioned, as is believed, by the humidity of the atmosphere, in connection with the tremendous winds which blow upon us during most of the cold season, & even till late in the spring. My complaint thus far seems to be confined to the throat, although there is danger, as good physicians tell me, of its descending to the lungs.